





VOL 05-03 OCTOBER, 2003

A Publication of News and Events

"UNCLE NACE'S DAY" \sim CELEBRATING MARYLAND EMANCIPATION DAY

1867 – 2003 ~ The longest continuously running celebration on the Eastern Shore of Maryland

In Trappe, alone of all places on the southern-oriented Eastern Shore, the Negro community was given the freedom of the town each year to celebrate the end of slavery. That didn't happen anywhere else in Maryland. It didn't happen many places in all of America. The fact that it did happen in Trappe . . . is something of which blacks and whites alike can be proud.

Reprinted from Trappe The Story of an Old-Fashioned Town, by Dickson Preston (p. 90). The book is available for purchase at the Trappe town office for \$5 + tax.

DON'T MISS THE NACE'S DAY PARADE *** OCTOBER 11, 2003 1:00 PM

Service: 10:00 am at Scott's Methodist ~ Buffalo Soldiers ~ Marching Bands ~ Fancy Cars ~ Great Food! ~ And More!!

The Legend and History of "Uncle Nace's Day"

Nathaniel (Uncle Nace) Hopkins led Trappe's annual Maryland Emancipation Day parades for more than 30 years (photo courtesy of Mrs. Helen Chester)



ccording to local legend, one day not long after the end of the Civil War, while whittling and whiling away the time on the front stoop of a little house on the outskirts of town, some men came up with the idea that the Emancipation, granted to Maryland slaves by a constitutional decree effective November 1, 1864, ought to be celebrated. One of the men, Nathaniel ("Uncle Nace") Hopkins, was recently back from service in the Union Army and almost as recently freed from bondage as a slave belonging to Percy McKnett. Hopkins volunteered to organize the festivities, including a feast, parade, and prayer service. He gathered together the children of the Trappe neighborhood, and his sons showed them how to make music from borrowed instruments—drum, flute accordion and tambourine. He got permission to have a parade and rounded up helpers from surrounding towns. Even the Merry Band of Cambridge came to play in the first Nace's Day parade on November 1, 1867, as

a celebration of Maryland Emancipation Day.

Such is the story told by his descendants of how Nathaniel Hopkins happened to start the unique Trappe festival which, with the passage of time, became known throughout the Eastern Shore as "Uncle Nace's Day." As the years passed, the annual celebration grew larger and more elaborate. Singing groups and instrumental bands came from all parts of the Shore and even from Delaware and New Jersey. Spectators flocked to Trappe from as far away as Baltimore to enjoy food cooked by local women on wood ranges set up on the lawn of Scott's Methodist Church. Throughout the day there were religious services, games, and other amusements. But the highlight was the parade. And the highlight of the parade was Nace himself, resplendent in uniform with shoulder epaulets, silk sash and gleaming sword. Beside him walked Aunt Ady Nixon, carrying the Bible. They were followed by bands, singing groups, men and women on horseback, children dressed up in their Sunday best, and decorated wagons and carts. Then, at a grandstand erected near the church, speeches were delivered by orators from Trappe, Easton and sometimes Baltimore.

For more than 30 years, Nace Hopkins led the parade. According to his granddaughter, Mrs. Helen Chester, "Whenever Uncle Nace sought something for his people, it was always granted because of the faith people had in him."

Nace Hopkins died February 22, 1900, and was buried in the cemetery owned by Scotts Methodist Church at what is now the corner of Route 50 and Bar-

Nace Hopkins died February 22, 1900, and was buried in the cemetery owned by Scotts Methodist Church at what is now the corner of Route 50 and Bar ber Road. After his death, others carried on for him, but the celebration continued to be called "Uncle Nace's Day."

Uncle Nace's great, great grandson, Dale Brown (a.k.a. Dawg Ketcher) is president of the Eastern Shore Buffalo Soldiers, who still march in the annual parades. This year's event will be held on October 11th, beginning with a church service at 10:00 a.m., a visit to Nathaniel Hopkins' gravesite, plenty of good food, and of course the parade, scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m. (Source: *Trappe: The Story of an Old-Fashioned Town* by Dick Preston)

Trappe Town Council September Meeting

- The Council passed bill 5-2003, Storm water management. This bill sets out the requirements developers must meet, relating to storm Water Runoff, for all new developments.
- The Council passed bill 6-2003, Floating Zones. This bill sets out the requirements and means of approval for large Planned Developments and is what will be used to set out the approval process for the pending Allen Rocks development,
- The Council approved two home occupation permits. A Floral business for Rose Palombo and a day care business for Carolyn Thomas.
- The Council then reviewed the proposed Talbot County Gateways resolution. This was the subject of a front-page article in the Star Democrat. The Council consensus was supportive of Gateway overlay Zoning but not in the way proposed. As drafted the County Resolution will place a building moratorium on all lands for more than a half mile, 3,000 feet, centered on every county road leaving any Town and extending for half mile out into the County. On State roads the ban will extend a mile from the edge of Towns.
- In addition the resolution will create a taskforce to recommend how the land will be zoned, what uses are permitted, not just the visual and landscaping requirements to make Town Gateways attractive. Most of the land under consideration is farmland.

Trappe Planning Commission September Meeting

- The Commission approved the final draft of the "PN" Planned Neighborhood District. This will control large Planned Developments in the "Growth Area". The Town Council will take up this bill in October and schedule a public hearing.
- The Commission reviewed a 9 home subdivision on Howell Point Road and approved the pre-application concept plan.
- The Commission adjourned to a short workshop and discussed the County Comprehensive plan and the Town Center Redevelopment

Information from the Town Clerk:

- > The Town Office will be closed for Columbus Day on October 13, 2003
- * Trappe POTTERY IS HERE and can be seen and purchased at the Town Office. A special piece will be offered each year featuring a picture of a town church. The first of these is now available, featuring Scott's United Methodist Church for 2003. Next year (2004) will be St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Many other styles available. Perfect for collecting and holiday gift giving! See these beautiful pieces today.



A FUN & LASTING CONTRIBUTION TO OUR TOWN: Do you enjoy making crafts? Do you like decorating for the holidays? Volunteers are needed to make reusable decorations for new Christmas displays around town. Please talk to Joedy Cecil at the Town Office. Joedy has helped make decorations in years past, it's a fun way to dress up our town!

Next Special BULK TRASH PICKUP: October 31, 2003. Clean out your cobwebs before the Halloween goblins arrive!!

If your WATER & SEWER BILL appears a little higher than normal this month, the meter readings were taken a few days later than normal.

The Index is now available online, along with lots of other local info. Visit the town Web site: www.trappemd.net Logon today!!





INTRODUCING NEW NEIGHBORS Welcome Reverend Thaddeus David Hackett and Mrs. Alma Hackett Scott's Methodist Church, 3748 Main Street

In early July, Reverend David Hackett and his wife, Alma, moved from Salisbury to Trappe. Pastor Hackett was appointed to Scott's United Methodist Church, in the Easton District, having served 14 years in the Salisbury District.

He is the former pastor of Trinity United Methodist Community Worship Center serving the communities of Mt. Vernon, Oriole, Polks Road and Venton, MD. Trinity was formerly three churches (Grace, Mt. Zion, and St. Paul UM Churches) that under the leadership of Pastor Hackett merged and purchased 18

acres of land on Mt. Vernon Road. This parcel of land is the future sight of Trinity United Methodist Community Worship Center.

Pastor Hackett was born in 1945 in Chestertown and says he grew up as a "P. K" (preacher's kid). His father was also a United Methodist minister, serving churches in Maryland and Delaware.

Rev. Hackett worked as a welder for more than 20 years, at Salisbury Steel, Chesapeake Shipbuilders, and Dresser Industries. He also was a welding instructor. While in his early 30s, he became a lay speaker in his church. "At that time I had no intentions of being a pastor," he recalls. "But that goes to show how much I know!"

He served as a lay speaker on the Zion charge in San Domingo, Maryland until 1989 when he was called to the ministry. He worked for Dresser Wayne Industries as a supervisor for eight years prior to going to seminary. For the next five

years, he served as local pastor on the Princess Anne-Venton Charge while attending Wesley Theological Seminary's five-year Course of Study Program. Pastor Hackett graduated from Wesley's Course of Study in 1997 and was ordained Deacon in the United Methodist Church in 1998.

Pastor Hackett accepted the position as Chaplain at Tysons Foods' Berlin Plant in 1998. He continues to pastor Tyson employees at the Berlin and Temperance-ville plants two days a week.

Alma Hackett is a lifelong educator with a passion for teaching. She recently retired after more than 37 years teaching chemistry and physics at Crisfield High School. She now works part time as a GED instructor at Maple Shade School in Mardela Springs, MD. She is active in Scotts' After School Program, and leads the children's moments during Sunday worship service. "I'm not biased," Rev. Hackett beams. "but she does an outstanding job!"

Hackett beams, "but she does an outstanding job!"

Pastor and Mrs. Hackett celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary on Sept. 30, 2003. They are the proud parents of one daughter, one son, and six grandchildren.

Pastor Hackett says he enjoys pastoring in his new church. "Scott's is strategically located in a prime area. I foresee great things happening here. I can see this church doing a lot of new, positive things in the community." These ministries include community bible studies, in-person visits in the neighborhood, a weekly soup kitchen, and drug addiction counseling. He has also formed a new Mass Choir, which joins together the church's four choirs (children's, men's, gospel, and senior)—over two dozen voices—into one intergenerational group.

"These are exciting times for this church," Rev. Hackett declares. "We want the community to know that Scott's United Methodist Church is open to the public. I can't stress it enough: All are welcome, all are invited."

Scott's worship service is held Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. Church School is held every Thursday evening, beginning with a homework hour at around 4:30, followed by a hearty dinner, Bible study, and choir practice. The "Young at Heart" senior citizens group meets every Wednesday from 11:00 to 1:30 for blood pressure screening, speakers, health education, and games, such as dominoes and bingo. Two Mid-week Community Bible Studies are held Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. A Men's Bible Study meets on the third Tuesday of each month.

For more information, call Pastor T.D. Hackett at 410.476.3980 or 410.822.8308 or email skywatch@dmv.com.

BUSINESS CORNER

Gardenstar Florals Rose A

Rose A. Palombo, Designer

Banquets, Weddings, Special Occasions, Holidays, Funerals, Everyday Flowers God loved flowers and created soil. Man loved flowers and created the vase.

A new, custom-order floral business, Gardenstar Florals, has opened in Trappe. Owned by a woman who is even named after a flower, Rose Palombo, the shop offers fresh or silk flower arrangements for any occasion. The name of the business, Gardenstar, was taken from a myth about the "star of the garden," the sunflower, Rose's favorite flower. Rose has been making craftwork and flower arrangements for 30 years. She was trained in floristry by experts from Giant Food when the store opened in Easton and worked there for several years before taking a job as office manager and bookkeeper for a local accountant. Although she is good at accounting, Rose prefers working with flowers because she enjoys the creativity and likes making people happy. "I don't think people enjoy flowers as much as they should," she says. "Flowers can teach you a lot. Besides, flowers make people smile, tax returns don't!"

"My goal is to keep things reasonably priced so everyday people can enjoy flowers."

Gardenstar Florals now operates from a large workroom in Rose's home; but she plans to eventually open a shop in Trappe, offering full service, one-stop shopping for flowers, balloons, seasonal items, and wedding coordination.

Here are a few of Rose's tips for keeping cut flowers fresh in the vase:

*Keep the flowers in cool place *mist them everyday *put them in the refrigerator overnight *change the water every day and cut the stems at an angle *dip whole roses in cool water when they begin to wilt (to eliminate air bubbles in the stem)

For more information, please call 410.476.5931 or 443.786.0908 or email Rose at gardenstar@email.com



New Day Care Opening in Town

A licensed home day care is opening at 29321 Greenfield Avenue in Trappe. Owner, Ann Thomas has been a day care provider for eleven years and is approved for eight children, ages birth to 12. She is certified in CPR and First Aid, and currently has openings for late October, including an infant slot. Please call 410.820.7114 for more information.

October

Keep your eyes open

for trick or treaters

on the 31st!!



WMES Girl Scout

2003

Ode to Isabel ~ HURRICANE HAIKU

6:00 - 8:00PM

Fire House Party 7:00 - 9:00 pm

EMS Cheerleader Halloween Dance 6:00 - 9:00 pm

By Sean Gallagher

Falling branches bouce On the roof of my front porch Isabel knocking

Mon Wed Fri 2 3 **Town Council** Bulk Trash Pick-up October 31, Mtg. - 7:30 pm WMES ott's UMC - 11:00 am Young at Heart Scott's UMC - 1:30 pm Bible Study Scott's UMC - 7:00 pm Bible Study WMES PTO Mtg. - 7:00 pm **NEXT SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** nicken Sale Rt. 50 October 27, 2003. 7:30 - 10:00 am Country Church Breakfast Trappe UMC **Planning** 5 6 8 10 Commission EMS PTA Mtg. 7:00 pm Workshop - 7:30 pm EHS Scott's UMC 11:00 am Young at Heart 1:30 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Bible Study NACE'S DAY PARADE EMS Cheerleader's Fashion Show - 4:00 pt Planning 12 13 COLUMBUS **Talbot County Talbot County** PSAT Testing Grades 10 & 12 Commission WMES Sally Foster DAY Schools Schools Meeting - 7:30 pm Scott's UMC Men's Bible Study - 7:00 pm Scott's UMC Early Closed WMES Girl Scout Cadet Mtg. 4:00 pm 11:00 am Young at Heart 1:30 pm Bible Study **Town Office** Dismissal 7:00 pm Bible Study 7:30 - 10:00 am Country Church Breakfast Planning EHS 19 20 21 22 23 25 Commission Homecoming Workshop - 7:30 pm Football Game Trappe UMC Scott's UMC 11:00 am Young at Heart 1:30 & 7:30 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm EHS ACT Testing EHS Homecoming 5 TCPS School Board Mtg. 7:00 pm 26 Planning HALLOWEEN 28 *30* Commission **Trick or Treat**

Workshop - 7:30 pm

Scott's UMC 11:00 am Young at Heart 1:30 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Bible Study